

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 261640Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7653

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, XG, GI

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO KISSINGER VISIT

REF (A) MADRID 7464 NOTAL (B) MADRID 7554 NOTAL

1. SPANISH PRESS GAVE INTENSIVE COVERAGE DEC 18 AND 19 TO VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IN MADRID, WITH CONSIDERABLE ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL COMMENT ON CURRENT STATE OF US-SPANISH RELATIONS. ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP EDITORIAL COMMENT, WHICH NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DROPPED OR DEFERRED BECAUSE OF MEDIA'S ABSORPTION IN NEWS OF ASSASSINATION OF PREMIER CARRERO BLANCO DEC 20.

2. NEWS COVERAGE BASED LARGELY ON GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS, WITH NEARLY ALL PAPERS CARRYING COMMUNIQUE AND ALL OR LARGE PORTIONS OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT, TOAST AT FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEC 18 DINNER, AND HIS BRIEF AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE. CHOICE OF HEADLINES IN REPORTING SECRETARY'S TOAST, COMMUNIQUE, AND DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE GENERALLY HIGHLIGHTED POINTS THAT (1) US WILL CONSIDER BILATERAL

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DECLARATION WITH SPAIN SIMILAR TO THAT IT HAS WITH OTHER

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: (2) US RECOGNIZES THAT US AND SPAIN MUST BE PARTNERS IN JOB OF BUILDING NEW WOULD ORDER; AND (3) US ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT SPAIN MUST PARTICIPATE ON "EQUAL FOOTING" WITH OTHER ATLANTIC AREA COUNTRIES.

3. FEW PAPERS WENT BEYOND ESSENCE OF COMMUNIQUE IN REPORTING SUBSTANCE OF KISSINGER-LOPEZ RODO WORKING SESSIONS. LA VANGUARDIA SAID ITS INFORMATION ON TALKS SUPPORTED THEORY THAT GOS NOW SEEKING MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY AS COMPENSATION FOR BASES.

4. EDITORIAL IN BARCELONA'S LA VANGUARDIA BY FORMER SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO UN NAMUEL AZNAR ON DEC 16 (MADRID 7464) WEIGHED HEAVILY IN GENERAL EDITORIAL RESPONDS TO KISSINGER VISIT. SEVERAL MAJOR DAILIES, INCLUDING YA AND PUEBLO, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRESS SUMMARY REPRINTED AZNAR COMMENTARY, WHILE OTHER COLUMNISTS AND COMMENTATORS DREW ON IT IN SEPARATE ASSESSMENTS.

5. LUIS APOSTUA, COLUMNIST OF THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC YA, RECALLED THAT WHEN PRESENT BASES AGREEMENT APPROVED IN 1970 THERE HAD BEEN STRONG OPPOSITION TO IT WITHIN GOVERNMENT, WHICH THEN STILL FELLING EFFECTS OF CABINET SHAKEUP OF 1969, BUT "BANDWAGON EFFECT/ HAD PREVAILED. SEEING AZNAR STATEMENTS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE, APOSTUA CONCLUDES THAT GOS LESS DESIROUS TO SIGN AGREEMENT THIS TIME AROUND.

6. LA VANGUARDIA FRON-PAGED INTERPRETIVE ARTICLE DEC 20 STATING KISSINGER VISIT GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TELL "NERVE CENTER" OF US DIPLOMACY" WHAT MUST BE CHANGED IN US-SPANISH RELATIONS, WHAT REPLACED, AND WHAT RETAINED. CITING AZNAR ARGUMENT THAT BASES AGREEMENT NOW DIS-PROPORTIONATELY ADVANTAGEOUS TO US, LA VANGUARDIA SAW THREE AREAS OF SPANISH CONCERN FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS: (1) NEED TO UPDATE AGREEMENT TO REFLECT VAST CHANGES IN STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS SINCE INCEPTION; (2) REVISION OF TERMS UNDER WHICH US GRANTS MILITARY AID AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO SPANISH ARMS INDUSTRIES, SINCE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT ARRANGEMENT GIVES US TOO MANY LOOPHOLES; AND (3) RECOGNITION THAT US CAN NO LONGER IGNORE SPAIN'S CLAIMS TO GIBRALTAR.

7. IN ARRIBA, CONSERVATIVELY-INCLINED ORGAN OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT, EDITORIAL APPEARING DEC 18 SAW SECRETARY'S VISIT AS BOTH NECESSARY AND OPPORTUNE BECAUSE (1) SPAIN, AN IMPORTANT EUROPEAN STATE IN SPITE OF EXCLUSION FROM

NATO, SHOULD BE HEARD ON ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPEAN INTEGRATION; (2) SPAIN IS EUROPEAN COUNTRY CLOSEST TO ARAB WORLD WHOSE LOCATION GIVES IT IMPORTANT POSITION IN MEDITERRANEAN; AND (3) SPAIN'S PRIVILEGED POSITION WITH ARABS AND REPRESENTS US INTERESTS IN CAIRO.

8. IN DEC 20 ISSUE ARIBA COLUMNIST FERNANDO ONEGA COMMENTED THAT MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE DURING VISIT WAS DISCLOSURE THAT US WILL CONSIDER BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN SIMILAR TO THOSE IT HAS ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. ONEGA HOPED ANY NEW AGREEMENT REACHED WOULD UPDATE MILITARY BASES PROVISIONS IN CONSONANCE WITH SPAIN'S CHANGED POSITION IN WORLD AND RECOGNIZE INCREASED STRATEGIC VALUE, OF SPAIN, WHICH NOW OCCUPIES AREA OF GREAT TENSION AND WORLD INTEREST.

9. ASSESSING VISIT, YA EDITORIAL DEC 20 CONSIDERED MAIN POINTS IN COMMUNIQUE TO HAVE BEEN RECOGNITION THAT SPAIN IMPORTANT TO DEFENSE OF WEST AND THAT SPAIN MUST PARTICIPATE ON "EQUAL FOOTING" WITH OTHER ATLANTIC AREA COUNTRIES. YA NOTED THAT SPAIN'S GEOGRAPHY GIVES HER ROLE IN BUILDING INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ORDER NOT ONLY IN EUROPE, BUT ALSO IN LATIN AMERICA AND NORTH AFRICA. TAKING NOTE OF SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT SOME US ALLIES NOW SEEKING IDENTITY IN OPPOSITION TO US, YA STRESSED THAT SPAIN-- UNLIKE SOME OF ALLIES REFERRED TO BY SECRETARY-- HAD NOT RECEIVED SAME GENEROUS TREATMENT FROM US AFTER WAR. YA CONCLUDED THAT IF SPAIN IS TO BE "FULL PARTNER" OF US, LAST VESTIGE OF EUROPEAN COLONIALISM, GIBRALTAR, WHICH WILL ALWAYS BE OBSTACLE TO INCORPORATION OF SPAIN INTO EUROPE, MUST DISAPPEAR.

10. EDITORIAL ENTITLED "KISSINGER AND GIBRALTAR" IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MONARCHIST DAILY ABC (MADRID 7554) ALSO LINKED ISSUES OF GIBRALTAR WITH SPANISH INTEGRATION INTO WESTERN EUROPE, CONCLUDING THAT GIBRALTAR ISSUE STANDS AT INTERSECTION OF US-SPANISH AND US-COMMON MARKET RELATIONS AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE CENTRAL ITEM DURING KISSINGER TALKS IN MADRID. RIVERO

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